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Testimony Before the Transportation Committee
State Comptroller Nancy Wyman
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Good morning Chairman DeFronzo, Chairman Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. I am State Comptroller Nancy Wyman and I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to testify in support of **Senate Bill 151, "An Act Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices in Motor Vehicles."**

I have served as the Chairwoman of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)'s Red Ribbon Holiday Campaign for a number of years. Drunk driving causes many needless tragedies on our highways every year.

I am testifying in support of utilizing ignition interlock devices in motor vehicles for individuals convicted of drunk driving. Currently drivers who are convicted of the offense of drunk driving can lose their licenses for a year for a first offense or permanently if they have multiple convictions. The use of an ignition interlock device along with the penalty of suspension would allow individuals who have been convicted for drunk driving to be able to continue to work and support themselves and their families and give back to society.

The ignition interlock device would prevent an individual from operating a vehicle if their blood alcohol exceeds .02 which is the impaired standard in Connecticut. The bill before you increases the penalty of license suspension to eighteen months, but it provides the opportunity for a six month suspension and an additional year prohibiting the driver for operating a motor vehicle without using an ignition interlock device. An individual who is convicted of drunk driving would have to install, at their own cost, an ignition interlock device on all vehicles to which they have access including those utilized for work.

The ignition interlock device is effective in preventing repeat offenders from continuing to drink and drive and risk the lives of others. Thank you.